



Family First Preservation Services Act

Jamie Sorenson | Director | Child Safety and Permanency Division

Family First Prevention Services Act

- The President signed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 into law on February 9th, 2018, which included the Family First Prevention Services Act.
- Family First modifies many sections of federal child welfare laws. Most significantly, it:
 1. amends the federal foster care program to create new optional **prevention funding**; and
 2. strictly limits federal reimbursement for children's placements in **group foster care**.
- States may request to delay the effective date of Family First until October 1, 2021.

Limits on group foster care

- Title IV-E foster care payments are limited to two weeks for eligible children placed in settings that are not foster family homes, ***except:***
 - **Settings for qualified residential treatment programs**
 - Settings specializing in providing prenatal, postpartum, or parenting supports for youth
 - Independent, supervised settings for youth 18 or older
 - Settings providing high quality residential care and supportive services to children and youth who have been found to be or are at risk of becoming sex trafficking victims
 - Licensed residential family based treatment facilities for substance abuse where children are placed with their parents

Limits on group foster care

- Minnesota has licensed programs that will meet the criteria for all of the types of group foster care allowed under Family First, except for **qualified residential treatment programs**
- When Minnesota fully adopts Family First, the state will no longer be eligible to receive federal reimbursement for the costs of children's placements in some types of group foster care settings as they do now

Prevention services

- Provides new optional title IV-E funding for *time-limited (one year)* prevention services for candidates for foster care, children in foster care who are pregnant or parenting, or the parents or kin caregivers of these children, *without regard to income eligibility*.
- “*Candidate for foster care*” is defined as a child identified in a prevention plan as being at imminent risk of entering foster care but who can safely remain in the child’s home or in a kinship placement as long as services or programs that are necessary to prevent the entry of the child into foster care are provided.

Prevention Services

- Allowable prevention services include:
 - Mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services provided by a qualified clinician
 - In-home parent skill-based programs that include parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling
 - Programs and services must be:
 - Trauma-informed
 - Promising, supported, or well-supported practices

Contacts

Autumn Baum

Autumn.baum@state.mn.us

Ralph McQuarter

Ralph.McQuarter@state.mn.us